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(54) PRODUCTION OF HOLLOW GLASS MICROSPHERE

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To efficiently obtain a high-strength hollow microsphere excellent in whiteness degree by sedimenting and separating a powdery or a granular substance of a volcanic glassy deposit in a liquid medium, collecting a fraction having a prescribed particle size, baking and expanding the collected fraction.

CONSTITUTION: This method for producing a hollow glass microsphere is to charge a powdery or a granular substance of a volcanic glassy deposit [e.g. SHIRASU (pumiceous sand), obsidian, perlite, pitchstone, rhyolite, KAISEKI (a kind of welded pyroclastic rock, especially a welded pyroclastic flow deposit present in calderas on Mount ASO, etc., in KYUSHU District, Japan),

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FUKUSHIMA HAKUDO (a clay produced in FUKUSHIMA Prefecture, Japan) or MATSUMAE HAKUDO (a clay produced in MATSUMAE District in HOKKAIDO, Japan)] into an aqueous solution containing an alkali metallic salt of an inorganic acid selected from silicic acid or phosphoric acid or a condensed acid thereof (e.g. water glass, sodium hexametaphosphate or sodium pyrophosphate) at 0.05-0.5wt.% concentration, sediment and separate the powdery or granular substance, separate and collect a fraction having 5-10i m particle diameter, then add a 0.3-3N aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid in a volume of 1-1.5ml/g to the fraction, hydrothermally treat the resultant mixture at 150-200° C temperature under 0.5-1.5MPa steam pressure for at least 8hr, subsequently bake and expand the hydrothermally treated mixture at 900-1100°C temperature for 1-60sec. The resultant hollow microsphere is recovered from the baked product by fractionation using a difference in specific gravity.

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